

# Fathers are appointed by God

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Two Sundays ago we celebrated Mother's Day. Last Sunday we spoke about the value of children who are a gift from God.

Today we will focus on men, on fathers, to highlight the value and purpose of men in our society, in our families, in the church.

**Psalm 127:3–5 (NASB)** *Behold, children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward.4 Like arrows in **the hand of a warrior**, so are the children of one's youth.5 **How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; they shall not be ashamed, when they speak with their enemies in the gate.***

- Notice the phrases:
  - ... Like arrows in **the hand of a warrior**
  - ... blessed is **the man** whose quiver is full of them
- Fathers, your “quiver” is your home, your family, and your children are your “arrows”
- Man / warrior – (same root word) mighty man, man of strength, chief
  - “emphasising his strength or ability to fight”
  - “mighty hero who is very capable of defense or attack”
- Men, God sees you as mighty men (KJV)
- Fathers, God has appointed you, individually, to defend your family
- Men, God has appointed you, collectively, to defend our nation
- There is a warrior in every man
  - In some men, it needs to be toned down a bit
  - In other men, it needs to be fostered and encouraged
  - (Esau was a wild man, Jacob was a mama's boy)
- Our parenting efforts should aim to turn son's into gentlemen
- Gentlemen are men of strength, who have their strength under control

## Real manhood needs to be affirmed & preserved, modelled & taught

- Real (biblical) manhood is under attack (along with the traditional family)
- Many men have lost confidence in their God-given role as men & fathers
- Yet God has appointed men to lead their families
- A father's God-given mandate is to: guide, guard & govern in his home
- A father is the team leader in his family, and together with his wife, (his team mate), he leads his family
- If things go wrong, God says: Adam, where are you?

- Along with the responsibility (& privilege) of leadership comes the accountability of being answerable to God concerning our family

## **Men are commanded to act like men**

**1 Corinthians 16:12–14 (NASB)** *But concerning Apollos our brother, I encouraged him greatly to come to you with the brethren; and it was not at all his desire to come now, but he will come when he has opportunity. **13** Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, **act like men**, be strong. **14** Let all that you do be done in love.*

- Apostle Paul is speaking to (and about) some men in the church
- He tells them to act like men, and to be strong
- A man's God-given qualities, among others, are his strength and his stability
- In the Bible, the woman is called “the weaker vessel”, with the man being considered “the stronger vessel” (1 Peter 3:7)
- A man is (typically) physically and emotionally stronger than his wife
- And yet, in God's design of a woman, she is not in any way inferior to a man
- God has made a man's wife his equal, and his co-heir together of the grace of life (1 Peter 3:7)

**1 Peter 3:7 (Msg)** *The same goes for you husbands: Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them. As women they lack some of your advantages. But **in the new life of God's grace, you're equals**. Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don't run aground.*

- Husbands, don't allow yourself to re-interpret your wife's God-given role next to you as your equal
- If you are diminishing her to anything less than your equal, your prayers will be hindered
- Men, God has given you broad shoulders and a deep voice
- Real men learn to be comfortable with their God-assigned features & role
- (Real manhood is not about being macho, neither are men supposed to be sissies.)
- A real man is a strong man, with his strength under control
- He only uses his strength to provide for & serve his family, and if necessary, defend them from external threats and enemies

**1 Kings 2:1–3 (NIV)** *When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. 2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said. “So **be strong, act like a man,** 3 and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go*

- King David, at his death bed, handed the throne to his son Solomon
- David’s instructions to Solomon were:
  - **Be strong, act like a man**
    - Observe what the Lord your God requires
    - Walk in obedience to him
    - Keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations
    - Do this so you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go
- In other words, Solomon, you will only be in authority to the extent that you are under authority

### **Men can only exercise their God-given authority properly when they are under God’s authority**

- The Centurion said to Jesus: *I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me.* (Matthew 8:9)
- The Centurion recognized that Jesus was a Man under his Father’s authority
- A man’s inert propensities to lead must be tempered with him also being led
- If a man is not under any authority above him, he is liable to use his leadership strength to suit himself and descend to dominance

### **Men, fight for your families**

**Nehemiah 4:14 (NIV)** *After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and **fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.**”*

- Nehemiah assessed the external threat to the Israelites in Jerusalem
- He exhorted the men to fight for their families, their sons and daughters, their wives and their homes
- Today we also have external & internal threats against our families
- Men are once again exhorted to fight for their families and their homes
- The threat isn’t physical armies at the borders

- The threats are “isms” and “ideologies” that are designed to break down the stability of families, and steal children away from their parents